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TAGS: UNGA PHUM VE

SUBJECT: DEFAMATION OF RELIGIONS DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 122641

CLASSIFIED BY: Robin D. Meyer, Political Counselor, DOS, POL; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C) As requested in Reftel, PolCouns demarched Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials on December 4 on the "combating defamation of religions" resolution before the UN General Assembly. Using the non-paper, PolCouns urged the Venezuelan government against supporting the resolution. The officials had no immediate response. While this demarche is unlikely to change Venezuela's "yes" vote, it was a useful opportunity to underscore the U.S. perspective on the resolution and support for freedom of religion.

DUDDY